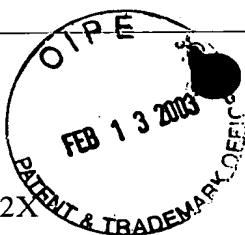


213046US-2X



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF: : GROUP UNIT: 2829
SHINJI IINO, ET AL. :
SERIAL NO.: 09/931,888 : EXAMINER: PATEL, P.
FILED: AUGUST 20, 2001 :
FOR: INSPECTION METHOD AND :
INSPECTION APPARATUS :

TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800

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RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
Washington, D.C. 20231

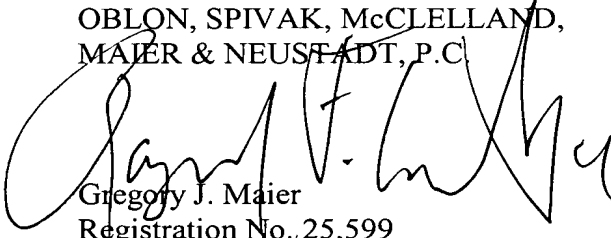
SIR:

In response to the communication dated January 14, 2003, and further in response to the Restriction Requirement contained therein, Applicants herein provisionally elect the invention of Group I which was indicated in the Requirement to be Claims 1-7, drawn to a method of inspecting a target object. This election is made without traverse.

In view of this election without traverse, an early and favorable examination of elected Claims 1-7 of Group I is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.


Gregory J. Maier
Registration No. 25,599
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Docket: 213046US-2X

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231

Re: Group Art Unit: 2829
Serial No.: 09/931,888
Filed: AUGUST 20, 2001
Applicant: SHINJI IINO, ET AL.
For: INSPECTION METHOD AND INSPECTION
APPARATUS

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

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Attached hereto for filing are the following papers:

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Our check in the amount of \$ - 0 - is attached covering any required fees. In the event any variance exists between the amount enclosed and the Patent Office charges for filing the above-noted documents, including any fees required under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 for any necessary Extension of Time to make the filing of the attached documents timely, please charge or credit the difference to our Deposit Account No. 15-0030. Further, if these papers are not considered timely filed, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 for the necessary extension of time. A duplicate of this sheet is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.

Gregory J. Maier
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